

Librarians Save Time and Money

As Members of the Healthcare Team, Health Sciences Librarians:

Improve patient care and outcomes

- Developing systems to acquire, organize, and disseminate essential clinical information resources;
- Finding the best evidence to support clinical decision-making and the development of policies, guidelines, and procedures related to clinical care;
- Designing and providing patient education materials to reinforce the verbal explanations and instructions that are part of the patient care process; and
- Participating in patient rounds and morning report, locating studies that result in changes in patient care and often have a positive impact on patient length of stay.

Enhance staff effectiveness and satisfaction

- Improving timely decision-making by pre-packaging information and arranging information-alerting services for key risk management groups such as patient safety and infection control committees;
- Reducing corporate risk by providing evidence-based information regarding best practices, government regulations and accreditation standards, and adherence to corporate compliance and copyright compliance;
- Assisting with integration of evidence-based resources into electronic medical record systems;
- Using expert information organization and retrieval skills to reduce staff frustration and enhance the overall job satisfaction of hospital and health professionals throughout the institution; and
- Managing electronic resources, selecting the best databases, negotiating licensing agreements.



Provide resources for teaching and learning

- Teaching others and acting as an expert consultant on searching the knowledge-based literature and finding and integrating the best evidence for clinical decision-making;
- Providing access to onsite and Internet-based electronic health learning resources and creating systems for managing learning objects and curriculum resources;
- Partnering with hospital educators to develop and manage web-based and other learning content;
- Managing computer training facilities;
- Identifying, acquiring, and promoting materials to support licensing, certification, and recertification examinations; and
- Developing curricula and providing instruction for staff competencies in evidence-based information retrieval and cultural and health information literacy.

Increase patient and family satisfaction

- Selecting, personalizing, and filtering quality information for patients and their families at appropriate health literacy levels;
- Providing classes in health literacy and cultural literacy competencies to hospital medical staff;
- Teaching classes to the community on how to find the most credible and reliable health information;
- Supporting disaster preparedness and emergency response programs within the hospital and the community; and
- Helping to remove barriers that deny patients' access to quality health information and providing services that enable patients to be partners in making decisions that will affect their own health outcomes.

Support innovation, research and quality improvement

- Providing background information for planning and quality improvement teams, increasing profitability by minimizing the amount of time and money health care professionals spend finding relevant diagnostic and treatment information;
- Promoting and enhancing the practice of evidence-based health care (EBHC) in the hospital;
- finding and disseminating comparative and benchmarking data to support management decision-making and quality improvement efforts;
- Providing alerting services and updates on new technologies and practices to speed dissemination of information about hospital innovations; and
- Providing information support for research proposal development and preventing duplication of research efforts.